

# Rosebank College

## GAZETTE



Celebrating  
140 years

VOLUME NO. 22  
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### RULE OF BENEDICT

What, dear brothers, is more delightful than this voice of the Lord calling to us?

See how the Lord in his love shows us the way of life

Prologue 19-21

*In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.* Eric Hoffer

#### Dear parents, students and friends of Rosebank,

This week the College has hosted the subject information day and information evening for Yr 10 students and families. This process represents the commencement of serious planning for the senior years and coincides with the commencement of the Yr 12 HSC Trial Exams next week. The cycle of discernment, selection and commitment to a program of study is full of exciting electives and consistent hard work and represents an important part of the education of our students with the support of their families. We pray that both processes are successful and fulfilling.

Next week we meet with the graduating class of 2014 and their families. It has been a delight to meet and get to know the 146 families that will make up this new cohort in 2009 and we welcome them to the Rosebank - Good Samaritan - Benedictine Family.

In speaking with parents at these various events I am ever conscious of the increasingly difficult task of parenting in the modern age. The factors that seem to impact on family life include the expectations and pressure of work, financial and cost of living pressures, the wide variety of activities that young people are involved in, the complexity of the extended family, aging and ill family members and most of all the intrusion of modern media into the very inner rooms of our homes.

It seems that it is the intrusion of the world into the very fabric of our lives that creates the most stress and confusion for parents. On the one hand we do not wish our children to miss out on anything that is new while on the other there is grief at the thought of losing control.

The technologies of the mobile phone (and 24/7 messaging) and the computer (chatting and social networking sites like MSN, Facebook or Bebo) have resulted in a significantly changed relationship between children and parents. For the first time in history, parents realise that friends and the rest of the world dominate their

children's lives at an earlier age and that these communication media are highly addictive and distracting.

There is an inevitability that we must learn to live with these technologies which also include DVD's, iPods, Foxtel, and so on. Rather than coming home to relax, parents are finding themselves needing to be ever more alert and watchful. Families Australia Chief Executive, Brian Babington suggests that "Simple things can make a world of difference, such as having a family meal together and planning a family night or outing each week."

While traditionally we have created quiet, private spaces for family members to work, parents are now reporting on the importance of a public work space for the family (e.g. a larger communal study/living area/dining table) where the technologies are used and discussed together and not in the remoteness and privacy of the bedroom. Also some families have insisted that all mobile phones are left at the door or in the fruit bowl at a certain time in the evening. This encourages conversation and allows parents to monitor and mentor their children in a non confrontational way.

The College is also committed to training its youth to find a proper balance in their life and to use this technology wisely and effectively. So often teachers, like parents, also find themselves in "catch up" mode. To this end we intend to increase our commitment to exploring and developing better approaches to e-learning in the months and years ahead. This will entail a revolution that requires not only increased access to computers but also specific learning skills and processes and a greater level of personal ownership for learning. The possibilities are at once exciting and disturbing. As the program unfolds, we will be communicating its various dimensions to students and parents.

May God protect us and grant us courage as we move forward into this new territory equipped with a deep sense of what is important for human development and a clear set of principles to guide us.

*"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn".* Alvin Toffler

**Tom Galea , Principal**

### Benedictine Youth Congress...



## Up-Dates from the Coordinator of Mission

**The spiritual life of Rosebank College continues to be truly alive and active in this Ordinary Time of the Church year.**

### **International Benedictine Youth Congress (IBYC)**

As a further follow up to the IBYC, one of the participants, Peter Sahajdak has written a report which is included in this newsletter. The other students who participated are Josephine Maltese, Jessica Stanley, Samantha Taylor, Stephanie Blase, Louise Menegoni, Oksana Lutak and Hannah Scanlon, all from Year 11. These eight students offered to attend the Congress not knowing what to expect. They entered into it with open hearts and minds, and, with that attitude, they were able to gain all that the experience had to offer. This group did our College proud in the way they fully entered into the spirit of the Congress. Each Rosebank participant shared their stories, prayed together, shared meals and grew in knowledge of the broader Benedictine community. One of the highlights of the Congress was the day we visited Featherdale Wildlife Park in Blacktown, after which we enjoyed a picnic lunch in a nearby park. This was an occasion to experience beautiful Sydney weather and to enjoy being outdoors.

There was, of course, lots of opportunity to pray and reflect together. Each prayer service and Eucharist was organised and run by a different Benedictine school. This meant that we were treated to a variety of liturgical experiences, each of which offered a fresh insight into the wonderful diversity within the Catholic Church. Overall, the IBYC was a most enlightening and inspirational experience. The organisation of it by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan was flawless: it ran smoothly and the variety of activities kept us all engaged and interested. Special mention must be made of Sister Mary McDonald who coordinated the Congress with great skill. Sister Mary's was a job done very well.

We thank the Holy Spirit for guiding us to and through the IBYC. Our challenge now is to keep the experience alive in our memories and in our hearts by continuing to tell its stories and by living out its lessons.

**Mr Angelo Gattone**

## International Youth Congress Report

### **IBYC Report by a Student**

*"Daddiri" is an Australian Indigenous word meaning "deep listening". It is the same invitation that St Benedict offers in the Rule "Listen with the ear of your heart".*

*At IBYC we gathered, listened to each other's stories and experienced each other's culture and enjoyed our time together.*

*The IBYC was held between the 10th and 14th of July at the Collaroy Conference Centre. There were eight students from Rosebank as well as Mr Gattone and Mr Galea. The conference was a lead up camp to World Youth Day. Students from schools founded on Benedictine traditions all over the world came together in a conventional basis.*

*There were students and chaperones from the following countries: USA, Japan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Germany and Chile, as well as other participants.*

*Upon registration we were asked to select two workshops for Day 2. Some of the selections were Aboriginal art, bush meditation and Australian art. On Day 3 we went to Featherdale Wildlife Park. I found it very enjoyable to watch the amazed and joyful faces of the students from overseas when they got close to our native animals.*

*They really enjoyed trying to take pictures of the Tasmanian Devil as it darted around its enclosure. It was also nice that the two students that I roomed with from the USA did not have the misconception that we have kangaroos jumping down the main roads. When we left Featherdale we went to a park and whilst there, the international students got to witness an outdoor wedding 'Aussie' style.*

*When we got back to Collaroy we had an Olympics afternoon which originally was going to be on the beach but the beach had been closed by council. Each evening a dance was organised for everyone to get to know each other.*

*I bunked with two students from San Francisco and I really enjoyed their company.*

*On the last day we all posed for a picture that will be put on the IBYC Internet site. The bus ride back to Rosebank was shared with a group from Germany who were staying at St Scholastica's College in Glebe.*

*I'd like to thank Mr Gattone and Mr Galea for taking us there and supervising us. It was an opportunity of a lifetime for us to experience such an event in our own country, not to mention our city. Peter Sahajdak, Year 11 student.*

## Dates for the Diary

4 August	CSSSA HSC Trials begin Year 7 Pastoral Care Day
7-10 August	Ski trip
20 August	P&F Education Night
3 September	Leaders' Induction Mass
4 September	Men Who Matter Breakfast
5 September	Co-Curricular photos



**Mr Angelo Gattone and Peter Sahajdak at the recent International Benedictine Youth Congress.**

## Year 9 Updates

### Welcome back to Term 3!

Thank you to the parents and guardians of the Year 9 girls for sending them back to school, correctly attired in their right winter uniforms and beautifully groomed.

We are currently checking on the labelling of the girls' uniforms ensuring that they have their names on all pieces of clothing, so that if misplaced we can return them to their rightful owners. Thank you for assisting us in this matter.

We would like to congratulate all the girls who were the recipients of the following Year 9 Term 2 awards:

*The Ask Not What Rosebank Can Do For You, Ask What You Can Do for Rosebank Award:* Rebecca Katrib

*School Community Service Award:* Mareta Akari, Laura Palazzolo, and Brenda Chan.

*Community Service Red Shield Appeal Volunteer:* Jessica Li, Jenny Kim, Nicole Goodwin, Alexandra Carroll and Soovina Choi.

We are once again looking forward to an exciting term. Please ensure that your daughter provides you with a copy of the school newsletter weekly.

If we can be of assistance to you at any time during the term, please do not hesitate to contact any one of Year 9 team.

**Rhonda Goodenough**, Year 9 Coordinator.



*Recipients of Year 9 Term 2 Awards*

## Thursday Uniform Reminder

Students must travel to and from school in either their correct full school uniform or correct full sports uniform on Thursdays. If wearing sports uniform, students should wear lace up, predominantly white structured sports shoes – not 'Raben' style unstructured canvas slip on or lace up shoes as these do not provide adequate support for safe activity.

Notes will not be accepted for travelling out of uniform on Thursdays. Students will be placed on detention during Co-Curricular time. Being placed on two Co-Curricular detentions in one term will result in an after-school detention.

If full sports uniform is not available, parents are asked to write an explanatory note and the school uniform should be worn to and from school. Students may change into suitable sports attire for their activity.

## Co-Curricular News



*Claudia Pillay at the recent National Competition*

Congratulations Claudia Pillay (Year 9) who was recently selected into the Australian Rhythmic Gymnastics National Squad.

This is a tremendous achievement for Claudia after having 8 weeks off competing and training due to an injury.

She competed at the recent National Gymnastic Competition finishing 9th in the all round routine as well as making it to the finals and finishing 5th in the hoop routine.

## 40 Hour Famine

At last week's assembly Janelle Kerkmez from World Vision visited the school and spoke about making a difference in a child's life. She thanked everyone who contributed to last year's 40 Hour Famine; Rosebank alone raised \$4,000.

The 40 Hour Famine is one of Australia's biggest youth fundraising events and it takes place from 15 to 17 August. "It's a chance to do something real – go without food or something else that really matters to you for 40 hours and raise money for kids living in poverty overseas".

The 40 Hour Famine is a great way for young Australians to get a taste of what life is like for children who have to go without every single day. For more information please see Ms Jackie Oh.



*Janelle Kerkmez from World Vision talking to students about the 40 Hour Famine at last week's assembly.*

See Ms. McAloon or log on to [www.careercentral.com.au](http://www.careercentral.com.au)

Open Days:		
Nature Care College 46 Nicholson Street St. Leonards 9438 3333 <a href="http://www.naturecare.com.au">www.naturecare.com.au</a>	9 August 11 am – 3 pm	Aromatherapy, Beauty, Reflexology, Counselling, Massage, Shiatsu, Naturopathy, Energetic Healing, Yoga Teaching, Herbal Medicine, Kinesiology, Meditation, Homoeopathy
St Patrick's Business College Cnr Riley and Devonshire Sts, Surry Hills 83062333 <a href="http://www.stpatsbuscol.com.au">www.stpatsbuscol.com.au</a>	10 August 11 am – 1 pm	Diploma: Business Admin, Business Marketing, Event Management, Hospitality Management
Carrick Institute of Education 191 Cleveland St, Redfern 1800 642 909 <a href="http://www.carrick.edu.au">www.carrick.edu.au</a>	30 August 11 am – 4 pm	Accounting; Business Marketing / HR; ICT, Hairdressing; Commercial Cookery; Patisserie; Welfare; Event / Hospitality / Tourism Management

## ACU

University Experience at Australian Catholic University (ACU National) will be held at Strathfield campus on Tuesday, 30 September and Wednesday, 1 October and at North Sydney campus on Thursday, 2 October, 2008. If you are interested in going to university, but don't know what to expect, ACU's University Experience program offers you the chance to explore what university courses are really about and get a taste for university life. Throughout the day, interactive sessions in Arts, Business, Early Childhood, Education, Environmental Science, Exercise Science, Information Systems, Nursing, Social Work, Visual Arts and Design, World Religion and Student Life will be run. For more information and to register for these exciting sessions please visit: [www.acu.edu.au/universityexperience](http://www.acu.edu.au/universityexperience).

## Graphic Design Workshops

Billy Blue College offers courses in Communication Design, Multimedia Design and Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Management. Experience a day in the life of a Designer at a 1 day Workshop on 23 August, 20 September and 15 November.

## Events/Marketing/PR Workshops

APM College of Business and Communication invites senior students to experience a day in the life of an Events Manager, Marketer, Public Relations Officer or Communications and Media Professional. 23 August, 20 September, 15 November

## UWS Parent Info Sessions

Does university sound confusing? The University of Western Sydney will hold info Sessions in Sydney on 9 September for the parents of students in Yrs 10, 11 and 12. Registrations required.

## Meet A Chartered Accountant!

The Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia invites students in Yrs 10/11 to a FREE 'Meet the Business Leader Dinner' on 5 August allowing students a personal insight into the life of a 'Chartered Accountant'. Limited numbers. Apply ASAP.

## Careers Expo for Students with a Disability

The Post School Pathways Expo allows students with a disability to explore post school education and training options and identify support networks available to assist with the transition to work or further study. Liverpool (19/8)

## Engineering@UNSW

The Faculty of Engineering Admission Scheme (FEAS) at the University of NSW offers an alternative entry option based on a personal interview for students with an expected UAI of 75-87.95. Online Applications open 1 August and close 12 September.

## Aptitude Test Prep

Pilot Aptitude Training Systems (PATS) specialises in preparing people to increase their scores in aptitude tests commonly used in the airline and military selection processes. Individual and group workshops available.

## Ultimo Science Festival

The Ultimo Science Festival is taking place in National Science Week 2008 and is a huge event presented by TAFE, the ABC, UTS and the Powerhouse Museum. Schools are invited to enjoy this special 2008 program. 22-31 August.

Please see Ms. McAloon, Careers Advisor, for more information on any of the above notices or visit: [www.careercentral.edu.au](http://www.careercentral.edu.au). Parents and teachers can also register online at Career Central. To open a user account, click 'registered' and follow the prompts.